



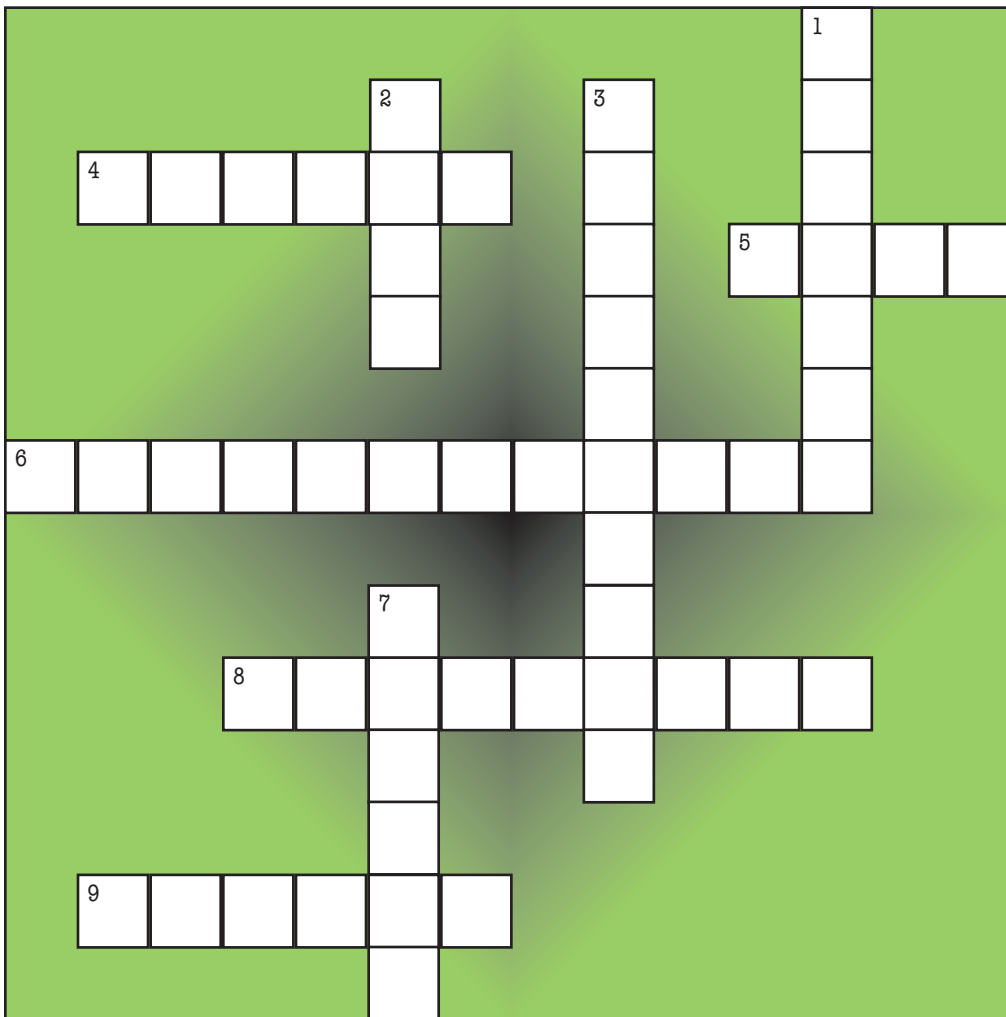
Grades 3 - 5

# Fireflies

THE KID'S SAFETY SOURCE

Volume 8, Number 4

## 911 Know How



### Across

**4.** If you ever have to call 911, you should never \_\_\_\_\_ the phone until you are told to do so.

**5.** It costs nothing to call 911 from any phone. It is \_\_\_\_\_.

**6.** These people come if there is a fire emergency.

**8.** 911 should only be called in an \_\_\_\_\_.

**9.** These people come if there is a crime.

### Down

**1.** The 911 dispatcher needs to know your \_\_\_\_\_ to get to an emergency at your home.

**2.** 911 should be called if there is a car crash where people are \_\_\_\_\_. They might need an ambulance.

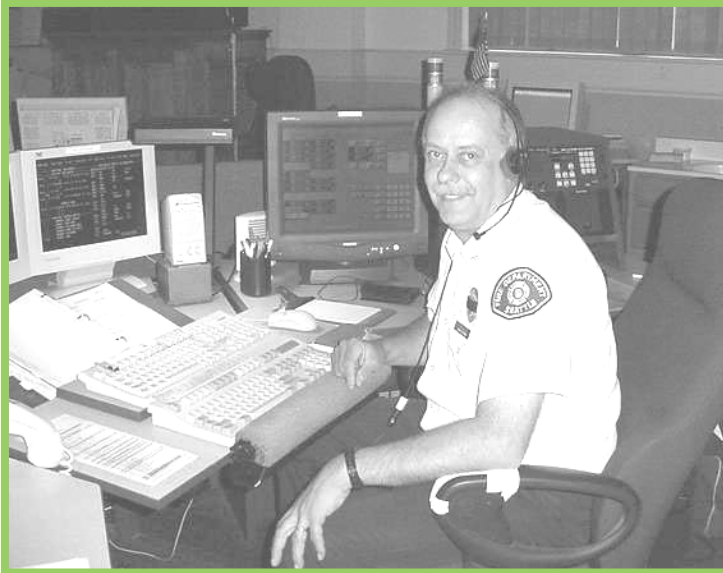
**3.** On Page 2, what is Firefighter John's job with the Seattle Fire Department?

**7.** These people come if there is a medical emergency.

- Across**
- 4.** hangup
  - 5.** free
  - 6.** firefighters
  - 8.** emergency
  - 9.** police
- Down**
- 1.** address
  - 2.** hurt
  - 3.** dispatcher
  - 7.** medics

# Feature Firefighter

## Meet Firefighter John Ellis



Firefighters do many different jobs. They put out fires and help people who are sick or hurt. They teach fire safety and inspect buildings to make sure they are safe. Firefighters also answer 911 phone calls in Seattle. This is an important job. These firefighters are called dispatchers.

Meet Firefighter John. He is a dispatcher for the Seattle Fire Department. He has been a dispatcher for nine years. His job is to answer phone calls to 911. His job is to send help to you or whoever needs it. It takes a lot of work and concentration to do his job. Firefighter

John has to keep track of many things. He has to keep track of where the firefighters from different fire stations are working in the city. This way he can send the closest firefighters to any emergency call. He has four computer screens and two keyboards to help him keep track of everything.

Firefighter John works as a part of a team. There is a team of four dispatchers every day. They answer the phone for an emergency 300 times every day! That is a lot of phone calls! They work together to make sure people get the help they need.

Firefighter John says, "Listening is an important part of my job." He can listen to many different things at once. To do his job well, he has to pay attention all the time. While the dispatchers are listening to the person calling 911, they are also listening to the firefighters on the radio and to each other.

Listening is an important job for you if you ever need to call 911. The dispatcher will ask you questions. You will need to listen to them and answer carefully. Firefighter John says, "Kids who have to call 911 do a good job. Sometimes they do better than the grown-ups. Kids are good listeners."



# 911

## Police, Fire or Medical – What is the Emergency?

### What to Know When You Call

These are the things you need to know if you ever need to call 911

#### The type of emergency

- ☐ Is it a fire?
- ☐ Does someone need emergency first aid?
- ☐ Is it a crime?

#### The address of the emergency

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#### Your name and telephone number

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#### As much information about the emergency as you can tell the dispatcher

- ☐ If there is a fire, what is on fire?  
Do you see smoke or flame?
- ☐ If someone is sick, are they awake?  
Are they breathing?



### Story Problem

Use the information in the story on Page 2 to answer the following questions.

If the 4 dispatchers at the Fire Alarm Center receive 300 emergency calls each day, how many calls does each dispatcher answer in 24 hours? In 1 hour?

**The dispatcher might ask you many questions. Answer them the best you can and always follow the dispatcher's instructions. Remember that while they are talking to you, they have already sent help on the way to the emergency.**



# Real fire is . . .

# HOT DARK FAST SMOKY

What do you know about fire? Fire gets very hot. It is hotter than the oven that cooks pizza! It is also very dark in a fire. It is so dark from smoke that you can't see in front of you. Fire moves very fast and gets big very quick. It's hard to breathe in a fire because of the poisonous smoke. This is what real fire is like.

Fire that is on TV or used for shows is different. This kind of fire is made to look exciting. The fire used for shows is controlled and doesn't move quickly. It doesn't make much smoke (otherwise you couldn't see the performers).

Can you think of an example of a real fire. One that was hot and smoky and burned very quickly? Maybe it was a fire that Seattle Firefighters fought to put out.

## Real Fire Example

<b>What was on fire?</b>	<b>Did the fire get big very fast?</b>	<b>Did the fire look hot?</b>	<b>Was there dark smoke where the fire was?</b>	<b>Did the fire look the way a real fire should look?</b>
	<b>Yes    No</b>	<b>Yes    No</b>	<b>Yes    No</b>	<b>Yes    No</b>

Can you think of an example of a fake fire? One that didn't look real or didn't have smoke or seem to be hot. You might find a good example on a TV show or a commercial.

## Fake/Controlled Fire Example

<b>What was on fire?</b>	<b>Did the fire get big very fast?</b>	<b>Did the fire look hot?</b>	<b>Was there dark smoke where the fire was?</b>	<b>Did the fire look the way a real fire should look?</b>
	<b>Yes    No</b>	<b>Yes    No</b>	<b>Yes    No</b>	<b>Yes    No</b>

**Remember** . . . fire is a tool for adults only. Not a toy for kids. Always tell an adult if you find matches or a lighter.